

Epidemiology FACT SHEET

About Epidemiology

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution of diseases and social and environmental conditions that can affect health in human populations. As public health funding is limited, it is important to know where resources can be the most impactful and work toward improving the health of individuals and the entire community. Epidemiological techniques can be applied to chronic diseases, infectious diseases, environmental risk factors, population changes, and programmatic evaluation.

About Data Requests

Anyone may request data or technical assistance from the epidemiology program. While we cannot provide raw data files, we can generate aggregate data for other health professionals, students, Davidson County residents, and governmental officials.

The Epidemiologist analyze and interpret data from a wide range of sources, including census data, and data that are provided to us by clients. Upon receiving such requests, staff often provide tables, charts/graphs, and/or maps as appropriate.

Currently, there is no charge for any of our services.

About Epidemiology Reports

The **most commonly** produced reports include:

- Annual Natality (Birth) Report
- Annual Mortality (Death) Report
- Annual Ryan White Needs Assessment (HIV/AIDS)
- Annual Child Death Review Team Report
- Multiple reports at varying intervals for specific programs
- Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team
- STD/HIV Program

Periodically, we are called upon to produce or collaborate on special reports. Recent examples of these include:

- An article comparing gunshot deaths in Shelby and Davidson Counties
- Community Health Profile 2014 that was generated as part of the MAPP process

About Other Services

Epidemiology staff also perform literature reviews, write white papers on topics, and assist in the design of program evaluation. Additionally, staff are periodically called upon to be subject matter experts to participate in interdisciplinary community processes.

